

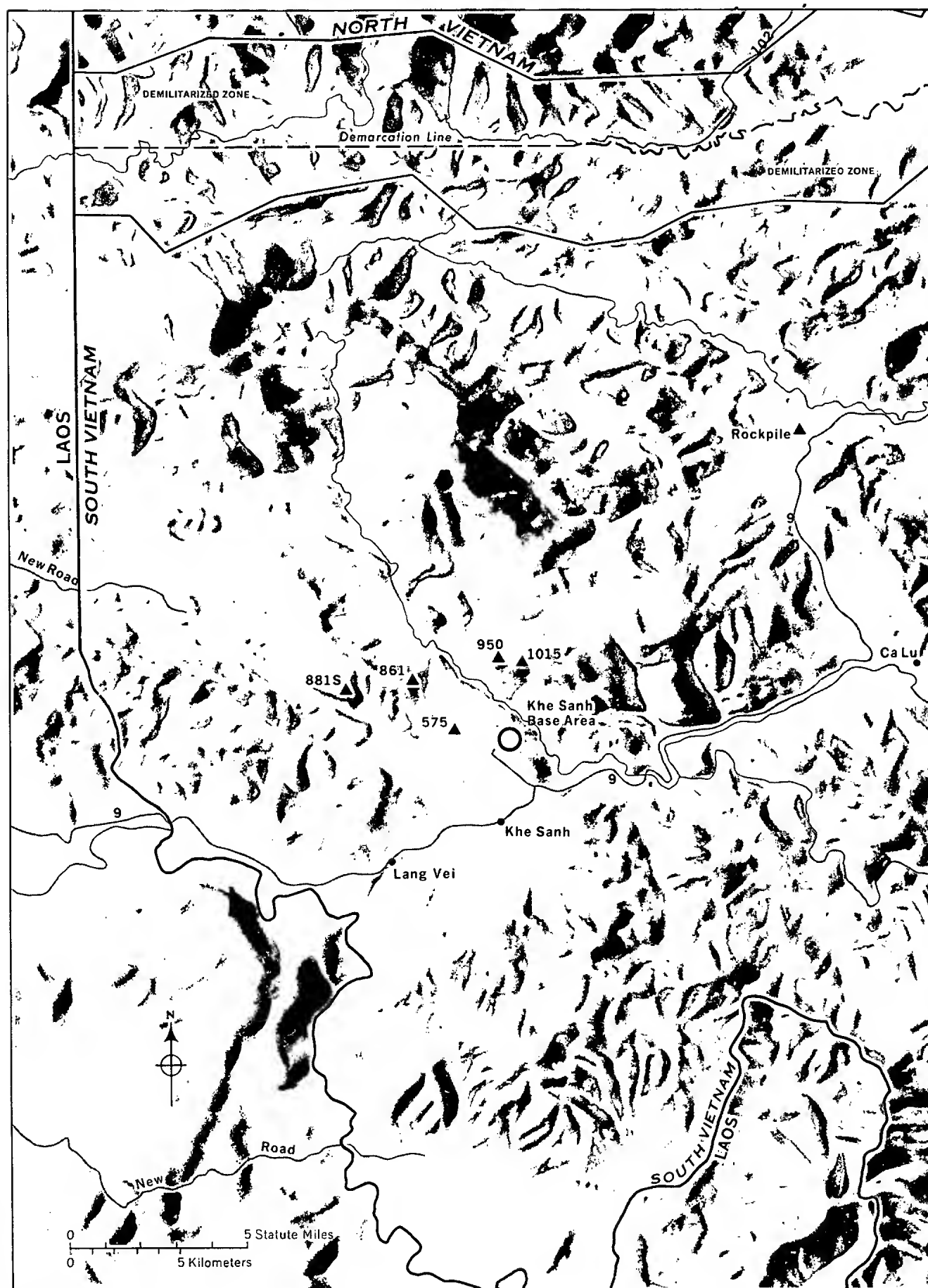


The President's Daily Brief

~~Top Secret~~ 13 March 1968



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DAILY BRIEF
13 MARCH 1968

1. Vietnam

Military activity remains at a low level in most of South Vietnam. [REDACTED]

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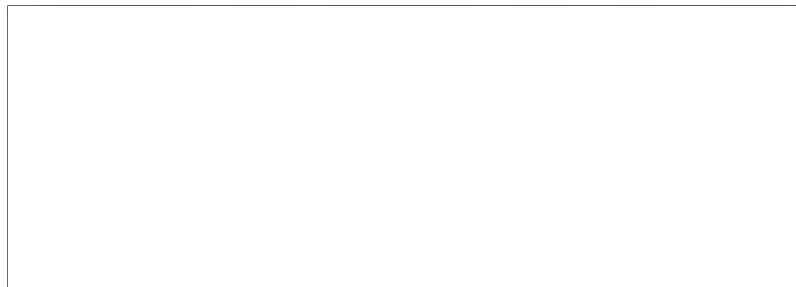
[REDACTED]

Clouds obscured most of the territory photographed on the BLACK SHIELD mission of 8 March, but good coverage was obtained around Khe Sanh.

The photographs showed further development of the Laotian road network to the west of Khe Sanh. In addition to Route 9, the Communists have built (over the past several months) two spurs running east from Route 92. These roads appear to have advanced about two miles since January and are now well within South Vietnamese territory.

All of the routes west of Khe Sanh appeared to be in serviceable condition. No vehicles were photographed, but extensive tracking suggests that moderate to heavy traffic uses these roads.

2. Panama



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3. Eastern Europe

Police in Warsaw had to use tear gas again yesterday to put down demonstrations, and students in other Polish cities are beginning to voice support for their colleagues in the capital.

The government is cracking down on people it thinks instigated the demonstrations or failed to rein in the demonstrators. Yesterday, for instance, it fired three high government officials whose children had been seen leading the protestors. The official line has begun to take a heavily anti-Semitic slant.

There may be unrest in the labor movement, too, the government's propaganda to the contrary notwithstanding. At least, that was what four workers claimed yesterday when they turned up at our embassy to ask if they could use its printing press to print an anti-regime pamphlet. (This may have been a provocation; the embassy turned down their request.)

Labor leaders in Czechoslovakia are also having their troubles. Prague radio yesterday announced the resignations of three of them, including the head of the central council of trade unions. This official said he took on himself part of the blame for various "shortcomings" in the labor movement. The union hierarchy has been a Novotny stronghold.

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4. Egypt-Israel

Both Jarring and the Israelis think Cairo will soon take its grievances back to the Security Council.

Nasir's domestic troubles probably are behind his renewed intransigence. Our embassy in Cairo believes that the recent student and worker demonstrations have made Nasir back away from even indirect talks with the Israelis. The regime apparently plans to have another go at diverting internal public opinion with a noisy hassle in the UN.

5. Communist China

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6.

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FOR THE PRESIDENT'S EYES ONLY

Special Daily Report on North Vietnam



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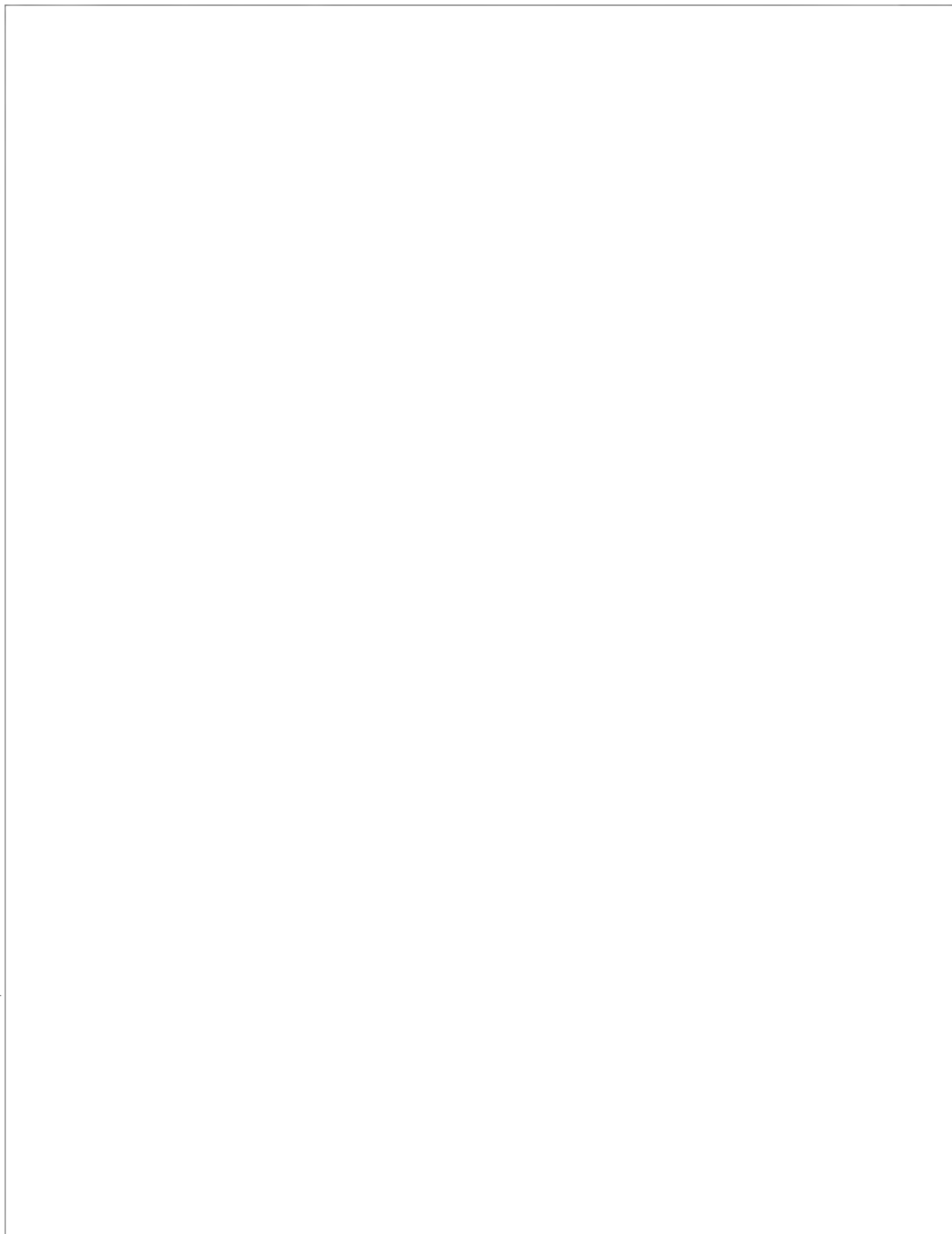
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Special Daily Report on North Vietnam
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I. NOTES ON THE SITUATION

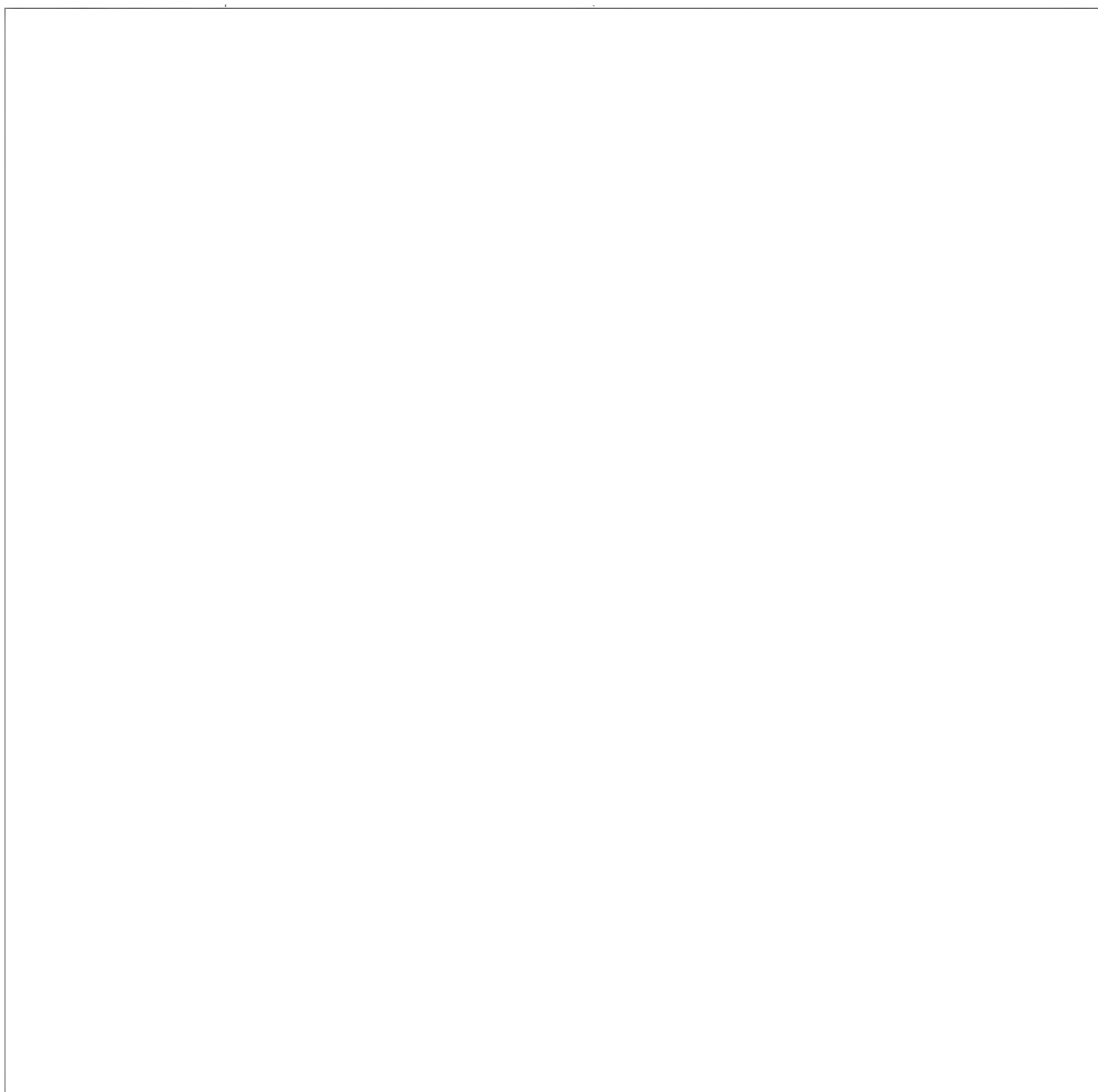
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Conditions in Haiphong: [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] the people in the port city appeared to be well or at least adequately fed but poorly dressed. [REDACTED] a large number of children in the city--probably just for the holiday. The officials [REDACTED] seemed confident in ultimate victory, but [REDACTED] not be sure about the civilians. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] work in the port area continued on an around-the-clock basis.

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Hanoi Calls Local Elections: Hanoi announced in an 11 March domestic broadcast that the triennial election of representatives to people's councils in North Vietnam's two autonomous zones, 17 provinces, and two special cities will be held in April. These organizations carry out functions on the local level similar to the National Assembly.

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The most recent election in North Vietnam was held last April when representatives for the districts, small towns, and provincial capitals were voted into office. In the upcoming vote, the Communist Party, as usual, will present the electorate a list of acceptable candidates from whom to choose.

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II. NORTH VIETNAMESE REFLECTIONS OF US POLITICAL ATTITUDES ON THE WAR

Hanoi Reports Court-martial of USAF Captain: Hanoi has been quick to comment on the court-martial of Captain Dale Noyd. In an 11 March broadcast, the North Vietnamese recounted the particulars of his trial and conviction, and noted that despite his punishment, Noyd continued to voice his disapproval of the war in Vietnam, where he considered the US was fighting a war of aggression. The same broadcast also noted that according to a recent Gallup Poll, more Americans now than at any previous time feel the US was wrong to get involved militarily in Vietnam. The broadcast commented that this poll also showed that at present "the Americans have become increasingly concerned about the cost in lives and money caused by the US war of aggression in Vietnam."

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